

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: City Year, Inc.

Application ID: 13AC146003

Program Name: City Year Detroit

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The applicant provides information about the need for the program through overall area data as well as particular schools' data ranging from 2009 to last year.
- (+) The applicant provides pertinent information about the challenges in the communities where the selected schools are situated. The applicant provides evidence that shows that the poor academic performance is compounded by student absenteeism and disruptive behavior. The applicant provides clear information that depicts an economically disadvantaged community with underachieving schools.
- (+) The applicant uses multiple sources of information to collect data, including from the school itself, state sources, independent surveys and national research, to describe the attendance and behavior management issues that accompanied the low achievement scores. In addition, the applicant gathered more information itself, in the form of a survey of student absentees to determine the reasons for excessive absences.
- (+) The number of volunteers planned bolsters the likelihood of this program's success towards meeting goals.
- (+) The applicant provided detailed information about how the AmeriCorps members will distribute their time to each proposed activity, such as in-class support and tutoring, on a daily basis.
- (+) The applicant provides precise information that validates the request for 121 full-time Members who will serve as providers of targeted interventions for 3rd to 10th grade students.
- (+) The applicant offers that the value to the schools will be the consistency that is offered by this model use of full-time Members who have daily schedules that span the day to after school program as opposed to the use of multiple volunteers who may serve sporadically.
- (+) The applicant discusses clear impact expectations based on their program development and delivery processes.
- (+) The applicant clearly described how the evaluation data will be obtained.

- (+) The applicant's objectives are measurable. The applicant provides data to support they have the skills to collect data to identify the success of the proposed AmeriCorps program.
- (+) The applicant's proposed interventions are evidence-based, thus it is anticipated that their proposed efforts will succeed.
- (+) The applicant provides a compelling description of the method of academic intervention that the AmeriCorps members will engage in. The evidence-informed research supports interventions based on identifying students at risk of dropping out of school.
- (+) The performance targets were discussed in detail. A clear plan exists for selecting students based on performance, behavior and attendance.
- (-) No schedule or method of data analysis is noted or plan for program adjustment.
- (-) The applicant did not cite any sources that support the statistical data regarding the student performance in their partner schools.
- (-) The applicant does not clearly articulate why they selected this population.